SENATE BILL 982 By Bryson

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-916, relative to General Assembly Merit Scholarships.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-916(a), is amended by deleting the subsection in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

- (a) To be eligible for a General Assembly Merit Scholarship as an entering freshman, a student who graduates from an eligible high school after December 1, 2003, upon meeting all curriculum requirements of the high school for graduation and who is seeking an associate or baccalaureate degree at an eligible postsecondary institution, shall:
 - (1) Meet all requirements for a Tennessee HOPE scholarship;
 - (2) Apply for a General Assembly Merit Scholarship in the senior year of high school; and

(3)

- (A) Achieve a final overall weighted high school grade point average of at least 3.75; or
- (B) Attain a composite ACT score of at least 29 on any single ACT test date or a combined SAT score of at least 1280 on any single SAT test date.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-916(b), is amended by deleting the subsection in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

- (b) To be eligible for a General Assembly Merit Scholarship as an entering freshman, a student who completes high school in a Tennessee home school program after December 1, 2003, who graduates from a high school located in Tennessee that is not an eligible high school after December 1, 2003, or who obtains a GED after December 1, 2003, shall:
 - (1) Meet all requirements for a Tennessee Hope scholarship that are applicable to such student; and
- (2) Attain a composite ACT score of at least 29 on any single ACT test date or a combined SAT score of at least 1280 on any single SAT test date.
 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring

it.